

Easement

K-21 Wicker House
Chestertown
private

2nd half 18th century

The seat of one of Chestertown's most prominent families from the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century, this monumental Georgian style mansion is ~~stated for restoration~~ at last scheduled for restoration by its owner. It is one of the largest dwellings in town. Opinion on its date of construction varies. Documentary evidence can do no better than the second half of the eighteenth century: ~~it was in the hands of the~~ the property was in the hands of one family, the Wallis family, from 1749 to 1828. Architectural evidence (and tradition) move it toward the century's close. It has served as dwelling, tavern, and hotel. In the mid-nineteenth century it was the residence of Ezekial F. Chambers, U.S. Senator.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Wickes House
AND/OR COMMON

MHT # 500292204

K-29

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
102 High Street

CITY, TOWN
Chestertown

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
First

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Kent

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Eugene H. Johnstone

Telephone #: -

STREET & NUMBER

102 High St

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Md 21620

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

Liber #: BHP 66

Folio #: 245

STREET & NUMBER

Kent County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

none

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

K-29

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Wickes House is a large scale, 5-bay brick Georgian house with a gabled roof and dormers, $2\frac{1}{2}$ stories high and two full rooms deep. It is located on the north corner of the intersection of Front and High Streets on Town Lot 16 in Chestertown.

It has a fieldstone basement and molded brick water table. There is a brick wall across the front with square brick columns opposite the corners of the house and flanking the steps up to the entrance which is in the central bay. There are wood cornices on top of the columns with balls on top of them. The brickwork is done in Flemish bond.

The entrance itself is up four granite steps and five wooden steps. There is a wood porch on brick piers. There is an iron pipe rail around the porch and down the steps. The paneled door is double behind a double louvered door. It is flanked by plain broad pilasters which support a lintel, dentils, and a cyma recta cornice which inturn supports a large box cornice with molding.

All of the windows on the facade have flat arches, double hung sash--six panes over six--and louvered shutters. The sills are wood.

The main cornice is a box with a large molding below it. There are two large chimneys flush with the gable ends. There is a composition shingle roof. There are three extra large gabled dormers.

On the northwest (left) gable end there are two windows on the first story in the extreme left and right bays: both are 6/6 with flat arches and louvered shutters. There are two smaller windows, also 6/6 with flat arches and louvered shutters, in the gable. The roof does not overhang the gable ends.

On the southeast (right) gable end a platform porch has been added and also doors where windows matching those on the northwest gable end may have been. There is a small casement window in the rear bay between the door and back wall. There are two windows on the second story: neither has an arch which suggests they are not original. There are two attic windows matching those on the northwest gable end.

There is a small wing in the rear. There is also a large garden adjoining the northwest side of the house, which is surrounded by a brick wall similar to that across the front of the house; it is capped with concrete and there are concrete caps on the fence's seven brick posts rather than the front wall's balls.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES latter half of 18th c. BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dating the Wickes House is a favorite local game, much like the debate over whether or not the Customs House was ever really a customs house. The documentary evidence makes it clear the house was built for the Wallis family, but the property was in the Wallis family from 1749 until 1828. Architectural evidence suggests the 1750's or 1760's--contemporary with its equally monumental neighbor, Widehall, across Front Street (1769)--but many Georgian style houses were built in Federal days by men of Georgian taste, so there are no guarantees.

From the Wallis family the house passed to Ezekial Chambers and then into the Wickes family whose seat it remained for over one hundred years.

Summary of Title Search

Daniel Perkins to Jonothon Page Liber 2 Folio 432 (1710) Bl 17s. 5 d.
(all of lot 12 with a message)

Jonothon Page to Hugh Wallis Liber 6 Folio 531 (1749) L240
(all of lot 12 with a message, presumably the predecessor to the Wickes House, though possibly the early version of 106 High Street on the other end of the lot.)

Hugh Wallis to Samuel Wallis.

Samuel Wallis wills his real estate to Philip Wallis Wills Liber 8-435 (1807)

Philip Wallis to Ezekial F. Chambers JNG 1 376 (1828) \$2000.

Ezekial F. Chambers to Elizabeth Chambers Wickes JNG 2 493 (18) \$2200.

Joseph Wickes wills his property to his wife Wills JF 1 258 (1864)

Joseph Augustus Wickes wills the property to his wife, Gladys R. Wickes, in a Second Codocil to his will, for life, and afterward to Glaydys Wickes and Joseph Wickes, his youngest (and unmarried) children. After his wife's death, his daughter Glaydy married a Dietrich.

Joseph, Gladys, and Gladys' husband sell the property to Joseph Metcalfe RAS 35 66 (1944)

Joseph Metcalfe to O.B. and Eunice Burrell RAS 39 375 (1946)

Ruth K. Emerson to Eunice and Betty Burrell WHG 75 520 (1962) ??

Betty Burrell Hammond to Lawrence Holofcener EMP 55 376 (1973)

Lawrence Holofcener to Eugene H. Johnstone EMP 66 245 (1976)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Beginning at a point on the NE side of High St. at the end of the division line between the property and the property now or formerly of Samuel L. Dorf (106 High) (line established in 1944 RAS 35-64, Joseph Wickes to S. Dorf) and running thence by and with the NE side of High St. in a southeasterly direction a distance of 120 ft. more or less to the land now or formerly of W.T. Bramble (now Wyman) (Which J. Wickes sold to W.T. Bramble in 1944 RAS 33 387); thence by and with said Bramble land in a northeasterly direction a distance of 74 feet, more or less to a point; thence still following said Bramble land, in a northwesterly direct-

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
 ion a distance of 31 feet, more or less to a point; thence still following said Brar
 STATE land and the rear end of the lot now COUNTY or formerly of J.B. Whaland and the
 lands of others in a northeasterly direction a distance of 97 feet more or less to the
 STATE lands now or formerly of H. Wroth; COUNTY thence by and with said Wroth lands on
 a line parallel with High St. in a northwesterly direction a distance of 89 feet more
 or less to the northernmost end of the aforementioned Dorf
 division line; thence by and with said division line South
 43 degrees West 165 feet to the beginning.

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert Neill Historic Site Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust/ Town of Chestertown

DATE

June, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

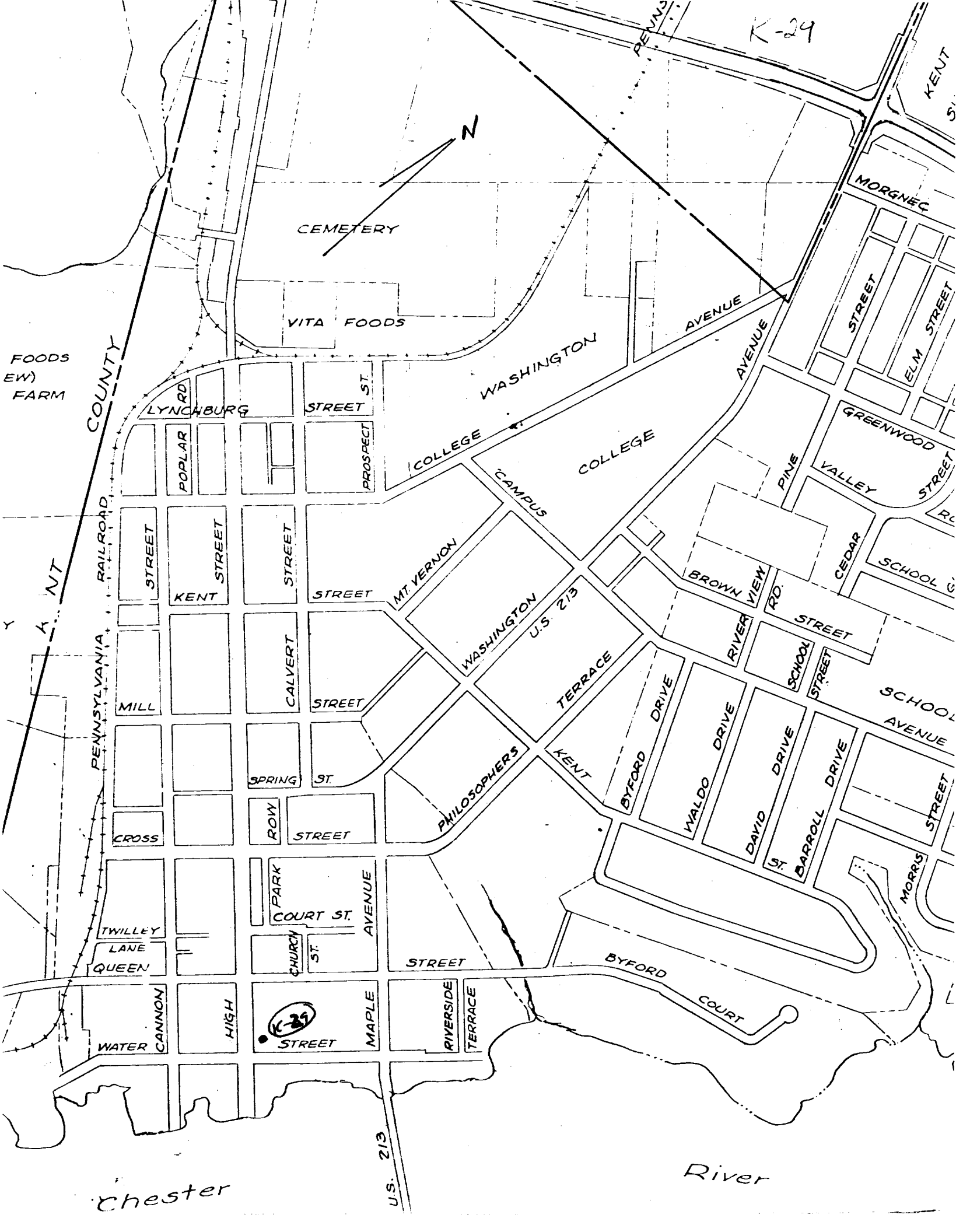
CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438



K-29

N

CEMETERY

VITA FOODS

FOODS
EW)
FARM

COUNTY

LYNCHBURG

STREET

COLLEGE

COLLEGE

MORGNEC

STREET

ELM STREET

GREENWOOD

STREET

VALLEY

SCHOOL

STREET

SCHOOL

AVENUE

STREET

MORRIS

WASHINGTON

AVENUE

AVENUE

PINE

CEDAR

BROWN VIEW

RIVER

SCHOOL

STREET

WASHINGTON

U.S. 213

TERRACE

BYFORD DRIVE

WALDO DRIVE

DAVID DRIVE

BARROLL DRIVE

PHILOSOPHERS

KENT

STREET

BYFORD

COURT

COURT ST.

CHURCH ST.

AVENUE

MAPLE

RIVERSIDE

TERRACE

STREET

HIGH

WATER

CANNON

TWILLEY

LANE

QUEEN

CROSS

MILL

KENT

STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

MT. VERNON

SPRING ST

STREET

CALVERT

STREET

STREET

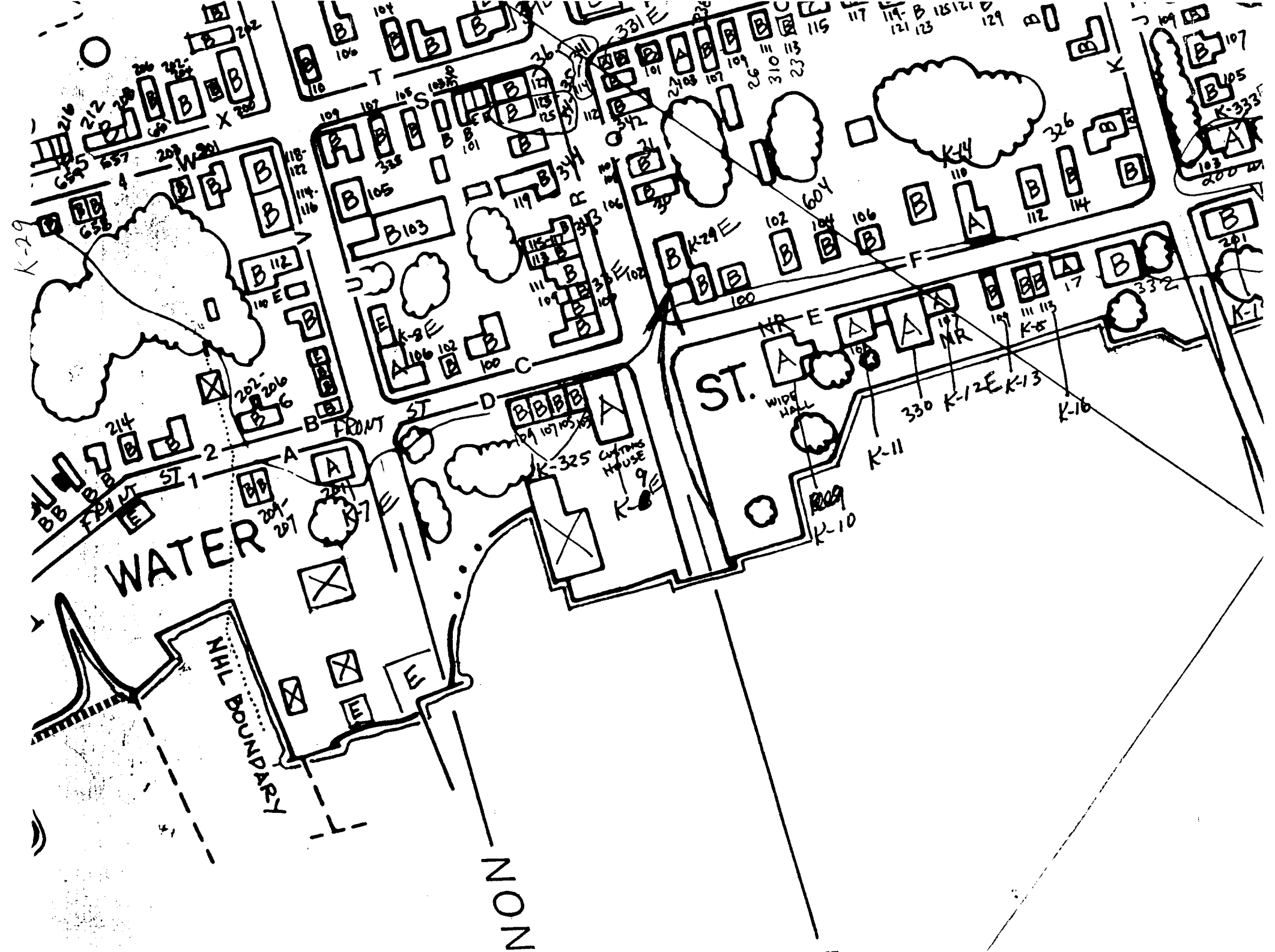
POPLAR RD

PROSPECT ST

U.S. 213

River

Chester





K 29 Wickes House, 102 High St.

Chestertown

spring 1976 Robert Neill SE view



K 29 Wacker House

102 High

1/77

STW



WICKES HOUSE (13)

S3 9/16

Charleston

K-29

Wicks House (Rt side)

PS 32 82%

10/1
11
135

K-29

Wickes House

Chestertown

See MHT vertical file for additional photographs